

The Hartford News

April 23 – 29, 2020



Coronavirus Arrives in City

City and State Step Up Enforcement of Social Distancing Restrictions

BY ANDY HART

For over a month, Hartford residents have watched with concern as the Coronavirus engulfed New York City and then spread to Fairfield and New Haven Counties in Connecticut.

This past week, the virus (also known as COVID 19) began arriving in Hartford. According to Mayor Luke Bronin's office, as of Tuesday, April 21, in Hartford, 1,590 city residents had been tested for Coronavirus, 674 tested positive for the disease, 250 have been hospitalized and 55 people have died.

"We've expected that Connecticut would see rolling peaks, with the Hartford region following on the heels of Fairfield County and New Haven County, and that's exactly what we're seeing now," said Mayor Luke Bronin. "As the number of confirmed coronavirus cases continues to rise significantly, each of us has a responsibility to slow the spread. As healthcare workers, first responders, sanitation workers, bus drivers, grocery store employees and many others continue to do their jobs, we have to do our part for our own sake, and for theirs – by staying home, by wearing masks, by staying serious about taking every precaution we can."

While the vast majority of Hartford residents have been obeying the social distancing

restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus, Bronin said that over the weekend, an alarming number of people had been gathering in the parking lots of city parks. Current restrictions ban gatherings of over five people. As a result, Bronin said, parking lots at all Hartford parks will be closed until further notice. The parks will remain open and those wishing to use them may park near by, walk or take the bus. In addition, Bronin said, food trucks will not be allowed to park outside city parks on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Parking restrictions in other parts of the city have been eased, however. The Hartford Parking Authority (HPA) has announced the following measures, which will be in effect through May 18.

- Temporarily suspend parking meter enforcement;
- Suspend late penalties on citations;
- Extend deadlines for submitting citation appeals;
- No boots will be placed on cars, unless due to misuse or stolen plate;

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An Open-and-Shut Case?

As protestors push back against Coronavirus restrictions, most say it's still too soon to ease up

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

It's unavoidable. For most of us, each day begins with the latest numbers of COVID-19 tests, infections, and virus-related deaths. One day there's a modest decline; a day later shows a significant spike. Here in Connecticut we've been told that the numbers will crest within the next two weeks—particularly here in the Hartford area—which has led many people to doubling down on precautions and isolation. But at the same time, a movement that started in the Midwest over a week ago has taken hold nationally: Open up the country, ease the restrictions, get people back to work, and rescue the tanking economy. Protestors have hit the streets hard, calling for a return to "normal" while carrying signs (and sometimes guns), claiming that the pandemic is a hoax, the numbers are inflated, and that the government is using it as a scare tactic to exercise control over the citizens. On Monday, a motorcade protest moved through Hartford from the State Capitol to the Governor's mansion on Prospect Avenue, demanding that businesses be allowed to reopen and services restored.

So how do Hartford residents feel about this growing rebellion against the state and city mandates during the time of Coronavirus? More than a hundred weighed in to respond to this question: "Is it too soon to consider 'opening up' again? How do you feel about the protests?"

GO

"Don't believe the numbers. They're padding the numbers to keep everyone afraid. You die in a car crash and test + afterwards they put it down as a Covid death when in fact you died from crashing into a wall at 100 mph. Are people dying Yes, but not like the media claims."

"For every argument to open up there's an argument for 'staying home', all from so-called experts. Everyone has their own idea of when things should happen and I'm not sure anyone from the top down knows what we should actually do. If the 'experts' are correct we could do either. I for one believe people need to go back to work sooner rather than

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Everyone Must Wear Masks...EVERYONE!

City of Hartford Department of Public Works employees began placing masks on city statues Tuesday morning to raise awareness of Governor Ned Lamont's recent order regarding face masks. Effective Monday, April 20, all Connecticut residents must wear masks or face coverings while in public settings where maintaining a safe distance from one another may not be possible (such as stores, buses, elevators, etc). The team was led by Hartford Senior Gardener Elizabeth Morin along with Marcus Jackson (above, shown at the Corning Fountain in Bushnell Park), Jeremy Santana and Michael Noble, Jr. (right), with assistance from City Forester Heather Dionne. (Hart photo)



Hartford...Once Upon a Time



This shot from the 1940's shows workers smoothing out the pavement for what is now the Whitehead Highway in Downtown Hartford. The highway was built over the Park River, which had been placed in an underground conduit as a flood prevention measure following the disastrous floods of 1936 and 1938, which caused millions of dollars worth of damage and lost business in Downtown Hartford. The Stone Arch Bridge along Main Street (which lent its name to Arch Street) is in the background. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)



Helping Others is the Latest Fashion

Several local fashion designers, including Troy Anthony (above), who are members of Hartford Fashion Week (HFW) have been busy sewing masks in recent weeks to donate to those in need to help reduce the spread of the deadly Coronavirus. The first two batches went to a retirement living facility in Shelton and the Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition. In addition, Anthony has been giving away masks to residents around his shop at 1918 Broad Street in Hartford's Barry Square neighborhood. He has created over 150 reusable masks on his own and his staff of five seamstresses have created hundreds more. Anthony said he has his staff working from home to reduce their chances of contracting the Coronavirus. In addition to HFW, Anthony has also held several shows at New York Fashion Week. His shop specialized in custom-designed dresses for weddings, proms, sweet 16 ceremonies and other special occasions. He also custom-designs clothing for those with limited mobility or who are recovering from an operation. To find out more about Anthony's Fashion shop, go to troyanthony.com or call 860-956-8513. To make a donation to HFW's mask-making campaign, go to venmo@hartfordfashionweek. (Hart photo)

City Parks Are Still Open But Parking Lots Are Closed

BY DONNA SWARR



On Monday, April 20th Mayor Bronin announced that the city of Hartford will be closing parking lots at its parks after crowds of people gathered last weekend. City parks will remain open, but the parking lots will be closed to discourage people from gathering in large groups. Food trucks will also be prohibited from parking near parks from Friday through Sunday. As of Monday, there are 648 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hartford, and 55 residents have died. The mayor stressed that social distancing is still a priority to keep the community healthy.

More than a dozen state parks were closed last weekend when the parking lots reached capacity. The State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has the staffing to monitor the state parks to ensure that they don't exceed capacity and social distancing can be observed. Hartford, however, doesn't have staffing to do that. I would hate to see our parks closed permanently, like some in

New Haven. Connecticut's Coronavirus peak is expected to take place from the end of April to mid-May. I believe that access to our parks is essential to our physical and mental health. Parks are for everyone. So we need everyone to comply with the social distancing mandate. New Haven is not the only city to close parks. Kent Falls State Park in North Kent and Seaside State Park in Waterford are closed until this public health emergency is over. Norwalk has closed its parks as well. Anyone found in Norwalk's city parks can be charged with criminal trespassing. These parks were closed in the best interest of everyone's health and safety during the Coronavirus pandemic. What you need to remember is that groups of more than 5 are not permitted (unless your family is larger), the playscapes and basketball courts are closed, and no team sports are allowed. We need everyone to follow the social distancing mandate. We all want to keep our parks open, right?



Looking Ahead to Honoring P.V. O'Donnell

It's hard to even think about January 2021 in this mixed-up time. However, life will continue and who knows what?

So, while on a call to Ireland an idea came up. Our dear, departed friend, the Irish fiddler P.V. O'Donnell, passed away in January, 2011, and his history and legacy were discussed at length. All of a sudden, light bulbs went off and a fitting celebration of his life and his musical accomplishments is now being planned.

P.V. came to Connecticut in 1987 and, after a while, became "The Real McCoy" of traditional Irish music in Connecticut, New England and even around the rest of the USA. He had lived most of his life in County Donegal, Ireland, where he was born in Buncrana and lived in Inishoven (most northern peninsula in Ireland).

P.V. would joke that he lived north of Northern Ireland as a patriot of the Irish Republic. H had to find work in Northern Ireland, living through "The Troubles" that brought him and his band, "Barley Bree" to Canada in 1977.

If you are so inclined, look up "Barley Bree" on YouTube. Known

as the "Kingston Trio of Ireland" by many, the group interacted with the famous Clancy Brothers. As the members of that famous group faded away, P.V. would often go back to Ireland to attend the final send-off of each. As things changed in his life, we were the beneficiaries of his energy and ambitions. With concerts, sessions, lessons and recordings, he stoked the fires of Irish traditional music like no other.

Because of that, this coming January, the 10th anniversary of his death, a group, which is now in the process of being formed, will put together a memorial to his legacy with music, photos, remembrances and good old "Craic." The date, place and details of this event are still being worked out, but the international impact of such an effort – in the USA, Canada and Ireland – mean that time is already wasting. So, soon an announcement will be made and we're still looking for photos, tapes, memories, videos of all those years.

Those interested can email to mikem1944@aol.com, or call 860-422-7939. Everyone will have a chance to be part of this historic effort.

EARTH DAY 2020...

Did you miss it?

BY DONNA SWARR

If you missed Earth Day this year, don't feel bad because it really didn't happen. How can you have an Earth Day and not celebrate in a group outside? Officially Earth Day was Wednesday, April 22nd. But, don't get bummed out yet. There are still some ways to celebrate.

FOR KIDS

The Clean Water Program under the EPA has a whole lot of activities. Go to <https://cleanwaterprogram.org/get-involved/earth-day-2020.html>. They have downloadable activity books for grades K-3 and 4-6. There is a coloring page which you can then submit your drawing for a prize. And there is more, Frogstastic Fred, a BEE at home activity kit and a fun film fest.

FOR ADULTS

From April 22-29, 2020 there's an exciting lineup of forward-thinking speakers celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Come join the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and friends across the community for a virtual Earth fest. We'll hear from local environmental champions, leaders, researchers, and organizers envisioning a brighter future with YOU. All sessions will be safely hosted online; register now for these FREE discussions and events through our link here:



<https://hartfordclimate.org/earthday50/>
Participating organizations include: Breakfast Lunch and Dinner, Blue Earth Compost, BiCi Co, City of Hartford Energy Improvement District Board, CT Green Bank, Ebony Horsewomen, Greater Hartford Arts Council, Hartford Public Library, Keney Park Sustainability Project, Immanuel Church, reSET Social Enterprise Trust, Green Eco Warriors, KNOX, Hartford Food System and Hartford Food Policy Commission, PosiGen Solar, Trinity College, and Toivo.

In addition, this week the Keney Park Sustainability Project, in partnership with Food Share, are distributing seedlings to city gardeners. The plants will be distributed TODAY, April 23, from 10:15 am - 11 am at Mount Moriah Baptist Church, 222 Barbour Street, and from 1:15-2:00 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 155 Wyllys Street. On Friday, April 24, there will be a distribution from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm at Bible Temple Way, 3052 Main Street.

THE HARTFORD NEWS

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WELCOME TO
BLUE HILLS!

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"For A Better Greater Hartford."

This week, with generous support from the Blue Hills Civic Association (BHCA), *The Hartford News* is featuring the northwest area of Hartford, including a list of businesses (pages 4-5).

This is part of an ongoing series in which The Hartford News, with assistance from various organizations, lists businesses that are still open during the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. Next week, again with assistance from BHCA, we plan to list all open businesses in Hartford's North End. If you would like your organization to be listed, please email the information to hartfordnews@aol.com.

About the Blue Hills Civic Association

Founded in 1962, the Blue Hills Civic Association, Inc. (BHCA) is a 501 (c) (3) community non-profit organization that is incorporated in the State of Connecticut and has non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. BHCA is the oldest neighborhood civic association in the city of Hartford.

The BHCA is governed by a community Board of Directors and is managed by a full-time Executive Director. The organization employs eight full-time and 10 part-time staff members and is located at 410 Homestead Avenue. This building is owned by BHCA and was a donation by Dr. Richard Fichman, a previous BHCA board member and local business owner. The BHCA also manages the North End Senior Center (NESC) that employs one full time and eight part time employees. The NESC is located at 80 Coventry Street in Hartford.

The BHCA has successfully operated Youth Workforce Development initiatives for over 25 years, delivering high quality services and advocacy in support of student achievement and youth job readiness. Our success is built upon a "cradle to career" model in that we are involved with our students for the long run. Additionally, we have hired three individuals who were participants in our programs since they were teens. While the BHCA provides services to individuals throughout Greater Hartford, many of its participants reside in North Hartford's Promise Zone (NHPZ). The NHPZ includes the Clay Arsenal, Northeast and Upper Albany neighborhoods where the average per capita income is only \$12,099 annually.

For over half a century BHCA has been a stable and steady leader in developing Hartford's Blue Hills community. This track record has given continuity to our constituents, from students and homeowners, to merchants and neighborhood schools. Each year we build on the success of the past while creating new programs and innovative solutions to challenging problems while staying true to the organization's mission: "to empower the people living and working in the Blue Hills and surrounding communities to create stable and attractive neighborhoods through organizing, advocacy, and multi-generational programs."

Vicki Gallon-Clark, Executive Director, states, "Although our legal name is Blue Hills Civic Association, we will be doing business as (dba) "Building Hartford through Community Action" (BHCA). This name more accurately describes the work we currently do, and our future direction."

Other exciting news includes the appointment of Ms. JoAnn Price to the organization's board of directors, effective March 26, 2020. Ms. Price is the co-founder/managing partner (with Mr. Laurence C. Morse, Ph.D) of Fairview Capital Partners, a private equity investment firm with offices located in West Hartford, CT.

Fairview Capital Partners was named the 2005 Black Enterprise Financial Company of the Year and has received many financial industry related awards for their trailblazing accomplishments in relation to investment in ethnically diverse and underserved markets.

In 2019, Ms. Price was the recipient of The Hartford Business Journal's Lifetime Achievement Award, and has a history of serving with distinction on a variety of faith-based, arts and community organizations. Her most recent non-profit board service was in a board chair capacity with The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

"As a board, we're always looking for individuals who possess certain talents and skills to move our organization forward. It's very clear that JoAnn's stellar business experience, financial acumen and outstanding leadership abilities will be an asset to our board. We are also impressed with her down-to-earth style, commitment to the Hartford community - which includes concern and mentorship, positioning BHCA and North Hartford for success. We are so pleased to have JoAnn join our board!" says BHCA Board Chair Victoria Fennell.

Vicki Gallon-Clark also states that "I am so pleased to welcome Ms. JoAnn Price to the BHCA family as a board member! I am extremely impressed with JoAnn's incredible people skills, her proven leadership and ability to get things done. We have already talked about some exciting initiatives – all I can say at this point, is stay tuned!"

Blue Hills Civic Association
YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Blue Hills Civic Association (BHCA) is deeply engaged in the development and enrichment of the neighborhood's youth. Please note, some details of the programs below may change due to the ongoing Coronavirus and its subsequent restrictions. Please check our website for updates: <https://www.bluehillscivic.org/>.



Blue Hills Civic Association teens hosting the 2019 Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program Celebration.

Summer Youth Employment

This seasonal program offers a five-week, in-school employment and training program for students, ages 14 to 19, who earn money for their participation. This year we will serve approximately 500 youth from Hartford County. Using life-changing experiences, we provide opportunities for youth participants to increase competencies in the areas of: job readiness, customer service, basic skills, interpersonal communication, computer literacy, personal qualities, problem-solving and decision making, and financial literacy. This is accomplished through meaningful work experiences, learning projects, and classroom trainings; the earnings are a constructive way to teach the value of study and work. SYELP is funded through grant funds through Capital Workforce Partners. **To apply for the 2020 summer program, please go online to: <https://capitalworkforce.org/syelp/> or to www.bluehillscivic.org.**

Extended School Hours (ESH)

For the past 10 years, BHCA has offered a balanced approach to after- school programming; combining academic support, social, cultural, and recreational enrichment that is coordinated with Hartford Public Schools and is aligned with the instructional programs offered during students' regular school day. Academic enrichment and support is delivered in a student-centered manner that enhances existing school services, increases parent participation in achieving each student's success plan while engaging staff and faculty. Activities include math, reading and writing tutoring, homework assistance, life skills immersion workshops, career competency development, post-secondary exploration, college tours, community service projects, financial aid workshops, career choice research and job shadowing opportunities. We are currently offering these services to 30 Weaver High School students.

Greater Hartford School Internship Program (GHSIP)

The Greater Hartford Student Internship Program (GHSIP) is based on Hartford Student Internship Program and is a 'cornerstone' career and college development strategy to prepare Greater Hartford DCF-involved youth, ages 16-19, for career pathways. BHCA provides DCF-involved students with access to career competency training and internships in order to develop and demonstrate college and career competencies, ensuring post-secondary success.

For more information on BHCA youth programs, contact: Gabriel Boyd, by phone: 860.560.7360; or by Email: boydg@bluehillscivic.org



Blue Hills & Albany...Once Upon A Time

This photo from about 100 years ago shows Albany Avenue from its intersection with Blue Hills Avenue (right). The view is looking west. Some of the multi-family homes at left are still standing, as is the handsome brick commercial building (right) in the mid distance. Trolley tracks and horse-drawn vehicles still dominate the scene, the automobile had yet to come of age. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library)

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"For A Better Greater Hartford."

This week the Hartford News is focusing on Hartford’s Blue Hills neighborhood, particularly its commercial areas on Blue Hills Avenue and Albany Avenue. Like businesses across the country, most restaurants and shops in the Hartford are struggling to survive through the current Coronavirus crisis. Please support them as much as you are able. In upcoming editions we will focus on other areas of Hartford. Next week, with assistance from the Blue Hills Civic Association once again, we will list businesses in Hartford’s North End.

Many essential Hartford businesses are continuing to serve the public during the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. **SOCIAL DISTANCING REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED** inside and outside the business. Check for signs stipulating specific regulations, such as maximum capacity. All food from restaurants must be picked up or delivered; there is **NO SIT-DOWN DINING** at any restaurant. Beauty salons, barbershops, nail salons and other non-essential businesses are closed during the Coronavirus crisis. Please remember this is a fluid situation, and information changes from day to day. Please call ahead to check the current situation of the business. **NOTE:** We have made every attempt to make this list as complete and accurate as possible. If you have different or additional information, please call The Hartford News at 860-296-6128 or email to hartfordnews@aol.com. We will post it on our Facebook page.

BLUE HILLS AVENUE

- Bally’s Food Center**
679 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 243-8087
- Barall & Knover Flooring Contractors**
714 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 242-5200, bkfloors.com. Call for appointment.
- Carla’s Model Market**
660 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 243-1439
Open 7 days, 8:30 am - 9 pm.
- CVS Pharmacy**
479 Blue Hills Avenue, 860-769-6870
Mon- Fri, 8 am - 9 pm; Sat, 8 am - 9p; Sun 10 am - 7 pm; Pharmacy Hours: Mon- Fri 8 am-9pm; Sat, 9 am - 6 pm; Sun, 10 am - 6 pm. This CVS is reserving Wednesdays, 9AM-10AM exclusively for vulnerable guests & their caregivers.
- Family Dollar Store**
615 Blue Hills Avenue, 860-241-8182
familydollar.com/locations/ct/hartford/29207. Open 7 am - 8 pm
- Fred’s Cleaner**
624 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 242-7652
- Hartford Gas Station**
618 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 286-5443
- Island Vibes Restaurant**
675 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 242-1053
Mon–Wed, 11 am – 9 pm; Thu–Sat, 11 am – 9 pm
- Kennedy’s Fried Chicken**
618 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 242-4818
Mon - Sat, 11 am - 11 pm

- Metro PCS**
628 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 904-5042
Mon-Sat, 11 am - 6 pm; Sun, 12 - 6 pm
- Modern Liquor & Wines**
672 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 726-9221
Open Mon, Tue & Thu, 9 am 9:30 pm; Wed, Fri & Sat, 9 am - 10 pm; Sun, 10 am - 6 pm
- Mr. Pizza**
671 Blue Hills Avenue, 860-242-9771, mrpizzahartford.com
Sun, 12 - 10 pm, Mon-Wed, 11 am - 11 pm, Thu, 11 am - 12 am, Fri, 11 am - 1 am, Sat, 11 am - 12 am. Often closing earlier at night due to current situation. Call ahead to make sure.
- O’Shanes Wireless & Bill Pay**
672 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 310-2069
- Quick Store**
645 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 263-8825
Open 7 days, 6 am - 12 am
- Ross Tax Service**
656 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 286-8934
Call for appointment
- Scott’s Jamaican Bakery**
630 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 243-2609, scottsjamaicanbakery.com; Mon-Wed, 10 am-6 pm; Thu-Sat, 10 am-6 pm
- Wei Mei Chinese Restaurant**
651 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 242-0351
Temporarily closed due to current condition.

ALBANY AVENUE

- 99¢ Plus Bargain**
1291 Albany Avenue, (860) 727-8712
Mon - Sat: 9 am - 8 pm; Sun: 10 am - 5 pm
- Albany Avenue Variety Store**
912 Albany Avenue
- Albany Avenue Wine & Spirits**
1468 Albany Avenue, (860) 206-7174
Mon - Sun: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
- AutoZone**
1487 Albany Avenue, (860) 520-1339
Mon-Sat, 7:30 am - 10 pm; Sun, 8 am - 8 pm.
- Bank of America**
919 Albany Avenue, (860) 251-7740
Mon-Fri, 9 am - 4 pm; Sat, 9 am - 12 pm.
- Benjie’s Jamaican Restaurant**
1488 Albany Avenue, (860) 244-9974
benjiesrestaurant.com/
7:30 am - 11:00 pm
- Bravo Supermarket**
1291 Albany Avenue, (860) 278-8271
Mon-Sat, 8am - 8pm, Sun, 8am-7pm
- Brighter Day Grocery**
1098 Albany Avenue, (860) 548-9031
Mon-Sat, 9 am - 8 pm, Closed Sunday
- Carlos Food**
1478 Albany Avenue, (860) 726-4636
- Cecil Auto Electric Repair**
1469 Albany Avenue, (860) 241-0568
Call for information.
- City Gas**
1510 Albany Avenue, (860) 206-4542
Mon-Sat, 6:30am-10pm, Sun, 7 am-10pm
- Connecticut State Check Cashing Services Inc**
1291 Albany Avenue, (860) 527-2600
Mon-Weds, 8 am - 6 pm, Thu & Fri, 8 am - 6:30 pm, Sat, 8 am - 4 pm.
- Crossroads Supermarket**
1062 Albany Avenue, (860) 247-3172
Mon-Thu, 8 am - 8 pm, Fri & Sat, 8 am - 9 pm, Sun, 8 am - 6 pm
- First Wok Kitchen**
1011 Albany Avenue, (860) 249-8367
Open 7 days, 11:30 am - 11:59 pm
- Golden Krust Bakery**
1170 Albany Avenue, (860) 724-7983
- Mon-Sat, 8 am-6 pm, Sun, 10 am-6 pm
- Giuseppe’s Pizzeria**
1444 Albany Avenue, (860) 263-8300
- Jahm Ske’s Restaurant**
1291 Albany Avenue, (860) 246-7778
Open 7 days, 6 am - 11 pm
- Jak’s Flooring**
1382 Albany Avenue, (860) 278-0120
Call for information.
- Jessie’s Food Center**
1392 Albany Avenue, (860) 882-6759
Mon-Sat: 8:30am-9pm, Sun, 8:30 am-8 pm.
- Jiffy Car Wash**
1535 Albany Avenue, (860) 728-8267
- Kent Package Store**
1438 Albany Avenue, (860) 249-1963
- King of King’s Supermarket**
1380 Albany Avenue, (860) 690-7320
- Kure Rx Pharmacy**
1156 Albany Avenue, (860) 206-3890
Mon - Fri, 9 am - 7 pm; Sat, 9 am - 6 pm
- Lok Chung Restaurant**
1291 Albany Avenue, (860) 249-3357
Temporarily closed
- McDonald’s**
1303 Albany Avenue, (860) 247-3612
Mon-Sat, 5 am - 4 am; Sun, 5:30 am - 4 am
- Metro PCS**
1162 Albany Avenue, (860) 724-0315
Call for information.
- Mister Sparkle Car Wash**
1383 Albany Avenue, (860) 247-6435
- Oakland Package Store**
1083 Albany Avenue, (860) 247-2781
Mon-Sat, 9 am - 8 pm; Closed Sundays
- Pampi’s Cuisine Jamaican Restaurant**
1037 Albany Avenue, (860) 216-5680
Mon-Thu, 8 am - 9 pm; Fri & Sat, 8 am - 10 pm, Sun, closed
- Paradise Supermarket**
1478 Albany Avenue, (860) 969-6677
Mon-Sat, 7am-8pm, Sun, 8am-7pm
- Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen**
964 Albany Avenue, 860-216-4487

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Open 7 days, 10:30 am - 10 pm

Rainbow Variety
1129 Albany Avenue, (860) 525-4557

Rite Aid
1291 Albany Avenue, (860) 560-1881
Mon-Fri, 8 am - 8 pm; Sat & Sun, 10 am-6 pm

Rt. 44 Auto Sales & Repairs
1511 Albany Avenue, (860) 244-9616
Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm; Sat, 9 am -2 pm.

Scott’s Jamaican Bakery
1344 Albany Avenue, (860) 247-3855
Mon-Sat, 8 am - 7:30 pm; Sun, 8 am - 5pm

Shell Gas Station
949 Albany Avenue, (860) 216-1659

Shine Laundromat
1001 Albany Avenue, (860) 206-5995
Open 7 days, 7 am - 11 pm

TEMPORARILY
CLOSED

Due to State-mandated restrictions designed to slow the spread of the Coronavirus

Do It All Clothing
701 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 308-2475

Everlasting Beauty
678 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 243-042

Hair World
58 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 243-1481

Joy’s Hair Repair Salon
655-A Blue Hills Ave, (860) 216-4373

Shalimar Unisex Salon
653 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 286-0332

Better Cut 2
1123 Albany Avenue, (860) 278-5180

Hair City
1291 Albany Avenue, (860) 547-1712

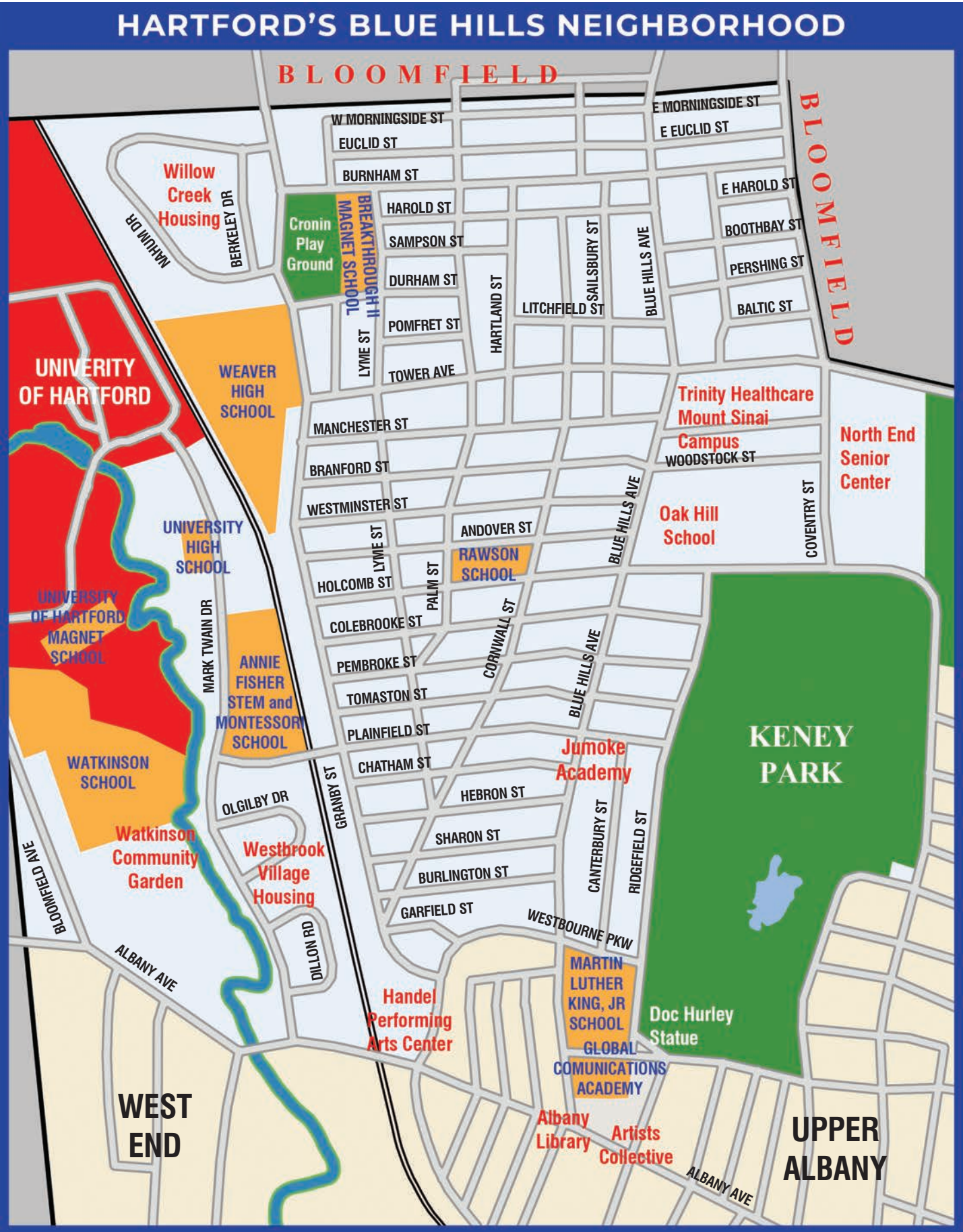
High Maintenance Boutique
1154 Albany Avenue, (747) 999-2099

Lily Nail Salon
1150 Albany Avenue, (860) 247-3444

My City Fashion
1442 Albany Avenue, (860) 967-0719

Pastry Dynamics
1166 Albany Avenue, (860) 525-5023
Open 7 days, 9 am - 1:30 am

Tuff Cuts



The Blue Hills neighborhood (center, in blue) is located in northwest Hartford. It is bordered by Hartford’s West End and Upper Albany neighborhoods and the towns of Bloomfield and West Hartford. Most commercial businesses in the area are located at the northern end of Blue Hills Avenue and along Albany Avenue.

1103 Albany Avenue, (860) 524-5423

Uptop Barber Shop
1148 Albany Avenue, (860) 729-0746

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES

Professional services (such as attorneys and accountants) must close their offices to the public during this health emergency, but some business can be conducted online and by phone.

Albany Accounting Services
1136 Albany Avenue, (860) 246-2017
Call for information.

Attorney Jeanette Chambers
655 Blue Hills Avenue, (860) 760-6222
Call for information.

Fichman Eyecare
1500 Albany Avenue, (860) 560-9563
Call for information.

H&R Block
1291 Albany Avenue, 860-724-6441
Call for information.

Healing Hands Homecare Service
1409 Albany Avenue, (860) 890-3329
Call for information.

Kabbalah Arts & Culture Center
1023 Albany Avenue, (860) 469-5222
Call for information.

Lucas Driving School
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1136 Albany Avenue, (860) 247-7026
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1500 Albany Avenue, 860-293-2003
Call for information.

Aid Available For Small Businesses, Deadline: April 30

Businesses hurt by the current Coronavirus crisis may be entitled to help from the state government. International Hartford, a non-profit, can help city-based small businesses access this money. A new state program, administered by the Hartford Economic Development Corporation (HEDCO) in Hartford, gives out 0% lines of credit up to \$20,000 to minority- and women-owned small businesses. If the loan is spent on the business for the following three months, a portion of the loan is written off: that is, it's forgivable, based on need. For more information, and for assistance applying, contact International Hartford at 860-719-1856, or for Spanish speakers, 401-490-8844. The deadline to apply is April 30th, so act now.

Coronavirus Arrives in City

Continued from page 1

HPA will continue to enforce parking laws that impact health and safety. Vehicles will be ticketed and/or towed if they are blocking a fire hydrant or driveway, double parked or parked in a bus lane or spot reserved for the handicapped.

Hartford residents who have trouble finding parking, particularly overnight, can now also use any of the city's nine "Blue Light Lots," which are normally used during major snowstorms, or any public school parking lot. The nine Blue Light Lots are: 130 Sisson Ave; 2434 Main St; 135 Main St; 20 Francis Ct; 60 Chadwick Ave; 45 Evergreen Ave; 77 Laurel St; Sigourney Street and Homestead Avenue; and the Learning Corridor Parking Garage (use Brownell St Entrance). These lots are subject to change, depending on how long restrictions related to coronavirus last.

While news about the Corona-

virus has dominated the city for weeks, at a press conference on Monday, Bronin addresses a separate issue.

With the coming of warmer weather, there has been an increase in people illegally riding all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and dirt-bikes on city streets and even in parks. Often cruising around the city in groups of 10 or more and frequently disobeying traffic control signals, these riders have caused problems in the city for years.

On Monday, Bronin said Hartford police would be stepping up enforcement of city laws in regard to illegal ATV and dirt bike riders.

"It is a health issue," Bronin said, "when you illegally ride through city parks, you are putting people's lives at risk, people who are using the parks for what they were intended...Hartford Police have recently seized about 30 ATVs and dirt bikes and we don't intend to give them back."

More on Things Like Coronavirus and Littering

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

In a recent commentary, I suggested to you, the readers to give me your dirty money for safe keeping. No one has accepted this offer for some unknown reason so I will now tell you how to clean it. Both paper and coins are germ-infested along with the steering wheel of your car. And I might add, when was the last time you disinfected your toilet handle? I once compared Trump to a toilet handle but that's another story.

I thought that cleaning paper money could be more easily accomplished by putting it in my microwave oven. But I found a story about a Chinese woman putting the equivalent of \$450.00 in her oven and the money went up in flames. I don't know how to cuss in Chinese but I'll bet the same words in English we use applied to the moment she saw her money burning up in that microwave. I did put a one dollar bill in my oven just to see. But there is a better way to make your money germ free. Iron it. You can control the process. Coins could be put in boiling hot water. Again, if you don't want to take all that time that you now have since being locked up in your house, I'll take your dirty money and I'll launder it for you into my bank account.

Littering is now out of control in Hartford. It's competing with Hartford drivers slamming into

houses and utility poles as the most popular form of activity. One of my previous suggestions was to begin a school program in early grades to have kids walk around their schoolyard picking up sanitized litter purposely placed and later return to the classroom to talk about how important and cool it is to pick up litter. I thought I had once found an interest with a school board member but after emailing several times and no reply, I gave up. The point of that exercise was reverse instruction in which the child would return home and explain to their littering parents that it wasn't cool to toss their McDonald wrappers out the car window while driving down the street. (Yes, I've been the car in back several times while observing this occurrence.)

Short of a new city-wide school program, how about a new sign to put up on utility poles announcing something to the effect: "Don't be a litterbug." I would add a few expletives deleted but... And place a trash bin under the sign. I have noticed a few people picking up litter as they walk down the street. They should be recognized with an award by the mayor in a ceremony for being a civic-minded individual. I'm serious. How many times have you picked up litter? I do. And I wear gloves now and so can you.



KNOX Pushes Food Production at Community Gardens

KNOX gardener Rey Rentas waters seedlings at the organization's greenhouse on Laurel Street. The seedlings are being distributed to KNOX community gardeners. KNOX opened its 20 Community Gardens in Hartford on Wednesday, April 15. Over 150 gardeners have already registered and started planting seeds for their growing season this year. Plots are still available. To reserve a space, contact Kyle Borbas at Kyleb@knoxhartford.org. This year, KNOX gardeners, volunteers and staff are working to increase the amount of donated produce grown in its community gardens. The lack of fresh produce at many markets due to the Coronavirus has reinforced KNOX's goal of making Hartford's food supply more self-sufficient. For more information, go to: <https://www.knoxhartford.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/KNOX-Garden-Brochure-4.7.20t.pdf>. (Hart photo)

An Open-and-Shut Case?

Continued from page 1

later:

STOP

"I don't have a problem with protestors. I myself have organized and attended quite a few over the years. But these armed protestors scare me. And their cause is not justice inspired. It's selfish, single minded and has no basis in what's good for everyone in the country. Protest the lack of testing. Protest the stimulus money going to big business not the small. Protest the federal government outbidding states for PPE. But protesting the inability to go to a bar for a burger and a beer while carrying an AK 47...? Nah, I can't go along with that."

Correction

In our listing of professional services in the West End in our April 16 edition, the law firm of Berman, Mickelson, Dembo & Jacobs, LLC, was incorrectly listed as part of the law firm of Conway and Stoughton.

Berman, Mickelson, Dembo & Jacobs, LLC is a separate law firm located at 664 Farmington Avenue, Hartford (phone: 860-232-4471).

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If you've tried everything humanly possible and still are not happy, don't give up. Call me. I'll be able to help you understand how God heals all in all. Call 860-561-4884 or email me at maria2giacco@gmail.com.

Maria, CS Practitioner
Spiritual Healer

"It's too soon. Look at Singapore, where they had their infection rates under control with testing and quarantine. They opened up, and now at 1000 cases per day."



"Idiots is the first word that comes to mind, then other words that I was taught I shouldn't use. If this wasn't going to put additional strain on our shared health services and putting me and my family at additional risk I wouldn't care, they have the right to protest, but in this case I have the right to call them idiots and much worse for putting me and my family in danger."

"Yes, the American ship of state, a submarine, will now open all hatches before surfacing."

"The protestors need to grow up. We see what's important in Georgia, bowling alleys and massage parlors."

"These protestors should be required to volunteer for a week in a hospital and a week in the funeral home with me. Maybe they'll get it then. (But I doubt it)"

"I think it's crazy to "open up" the country when there's no guarantee you can walk into a store and buy disinfecting wipes and cleaners not to mention vitamins and medicines to keep you healthy. Fix the supply chains for these and other items; then I'll be interested in togetherness again. I appreciate our governor's cautious, steady approach."

CAUTION

"I would like to see 2 solid weeks of declining deaths before opening up."

"It's going to take behavioral adjustment, acceptance of higher risk, way less tolerance for litigation, less tolerance for risky behavior & acceptance that things like mass sporting events are out until there's a vaccine - but YES - let's get more people back to work; more business open - even things like Wadsworth Atheneum - where social distance is not hard to keep - reopen."

"I had a close friend die from this virus so to me it's real. But we need to be smart and reopen in phases and by areas. In addition do the safeguards that we have been doing. To me this self isolation isn't worth living."

"Too soon. Let them get the tests they need to do mass testing and then we can start slowly opening things."

"Let's talk about what opening up will look like. It won't just be the same as before. And let's all be clear about what epidemiologists recommend as signals for green/yellow/red levels of open. System like after 9/11?"

"Protesters have a right to protest. I disagree with them, but they still have a right. And opening up should be something we do in a measured way. No one wants things closed up for ever, but if we are to fast we risk overwhelming the healthcare system which is already tight for critical care."

"I'd like to see some gradual reopenings associated with drops in cases. And I like to see some businesses be given a chance to reopen in a responsible way such as hair salons and barber shops. I think they could pull off one at a time with cleaning between cuts. Besides, I need a haircut bad. Hasn't been this long since high school."

Hartford Launches \$1 Million Small Business Grant Program

City Also Plans Additional \$300,000 Grant Program And Awards \$120,000 To Small Businesses

Earlier this week, the City of Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, HEDCO, Inc., and Capital for Change launched a \$1 million Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program to provide at least 100 small Hartford businesses with a grant of up to \$10,000 to make lease or mortgage payments, pay salaries, make vendor payments, pay taxes, or pay for other eligible expenses.

The Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program is aimed at small businesses that may have difficulty obtaining funding from other federal or state initiatives, with a particular focus on providing assistance to small businesses owned by women and people of color, located in low-income neighborhoods in Hartford. The program will be administered by Capital for Change and applications will be accepted online beginning on May 4, 2020. A link to the application will be available at Coronavirus.Hartford.gov.

Grant awards are expected to be made on or before May 22, 2020. Program dates are subject to change.

Beginning on April 27, 2020, interested businesses can access technical assistance to ensure they are prepared to submit an application. Organizations providing technical assistance include the Blue Hills Civic Association, the Upper Albany Merchants Association, the Spanish American Merchants Association, HEDCO Inc., the Entrepreneurial Center at the University of Hartford, the Minority Construction Council, and the Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

In order to be eligible for the grant, businesses must: (a) be located within the City of Hartford, (b) be able to provide at least one federal tax return, (c) have positive revenues not exceeding \$500,000 for the submitted tax years, (d) have an EIN and/or DUNS number, if applicable. Other eligibility requirements will be available in the grant application. In an

effort to make grants available to as many business owners as possible, principal owners of multiple businesses will only be eligible for one grant.

In addition to the Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program, in the coming months the City of Hartford will launch a separate grant program to provide approximately \$300,000, with a focus on helping small businesses in Hartford neighborhoods restart when restrictions on business activity begin to loosen.

“This pandemic has devastated small businesses, and we want to do everything we can to help our small businesses here in Hartford survive, reopen, re-hire, and start growing again,” said Mayor Luke Bronin. “All too often, small businesses in communities like Hartford don’t have the banking relationships, the connections, or the ability to access federal grants or loans, and this partnership is aimed at helping those

small businesses that are most likely to be left out. We are incredibly grateful to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Capital for Change, and HEDCO for partnering with us, and we’re looking for additional partners to grow this program going forward.”

“Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, and we are proud to join with these partners to get them critical support during this unprecedented time,” said City Council President Maly D. Rosado. “The businesses we are targeting for support employ residents and serve residents, and we want to do everything we can to help them survive. We are grateful to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Capital for Change, and HEDCO for joining with us to create this important initiative.”

The City also announced recently that it is awarding approximately \$120,000 to seventeen small businesses under an existing grant pro-

gram, in partnership with CTNext’s Innovation Places program. The City used funding from CTNext’s Innovation Places program, secured by Launc[H]artford, to support small businesses in the corridor between Trinity College and Hartford Hospital.

“Launc[H] is proud to support Hartford’s small business community,” said Launc[H] Director, Michelle Cote. “We believe that our city has the potential to continue to grow as a significant center of innovation activity, but that is only possible if our neighborhoods remain vibrant. Small businesses are the backbone of our neighborhoods, and our region. Their growth and success will help to spur our collective growth and success, and we look forward to seeing the ways in which they invest in capital, and other business improvements through these grants.”

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The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated April 20, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

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El Informativo Latino

Gobernador Firma Orden De Uso Obligatorio De Mascarillas En Connecticut

Los residentes de Connecticut deberán usar mascarillas de tela en los espacios públicos a partir del 20 de abril si no pueden mantener una distancia social segura, según una nueva orden ejecutiva del gobernador Ned Lamont.

Según la orden, que entra en vigencia el lunes a las 8 p.m., cualquier persona en público que no pueda estar al menos a seis pies de distancia de todos, debe cubrirse la nariz y la boca con una máscara o una cubierta facial.

Los pasajeros en taxis, automóviles, servicios de transporte compartido o transporte público siempre deben usar una mascarilla. Además, cualquier persona que se encuentre en una parada de tránsito semicerrada o en un área de espera debe usar una cubierta facial.

La recomendación del gobernador es de usar máscaras faciales de tela, no máscaras quirúrgicas o

respiradores N95, dijo Josh Geballe, director de operaciones del estado.

Los expertos dicen que el principal beneficio de usar una cubierta para la cara no es que realmente lo proteja del coronavirus, sino que protege a otros cercanos en caso de que esté enfermo. Acá hay un tutorial sobre cómo puede hacer una máscara de tela con materiales que probablemente tenga en su hogar.

Si usa una cubierta de tela para la cara, es importante que la limpie entre usos.

Los precios del gas en CT caen por debajo de \$2 dólares, el promedio más bajo desde 2016

Funcionarios de AAA anunciaron hoy viernes que el precio promedio en todo Connecticut por un galón de gasolina sin plomo regular ha caído por debajo de \$2 dólares y que ese es

el promedio estatal más bajo en más de 4 años.

Los expertos dicen que el promedio estatal de un galón de gasolina sin plomo regular es de \$ 1.99, 5 centavos menos que hace una semana y 41 centavos menos que hace un mes. Los precios de la gasolina en Connecticut varían según la región. AAA dijo que el precio promedio por galón en Bridgeport todavía está por encima de \$ 2 a \$ 2.17, mientras que el precio promedio por galón en Hartford es de \$ 1.95.

Los expertos dicen que la tendencia a la baja en todo el estado es similar a la tendencia a nivel nacional, ya que menos personas conducen durante la pandemia de COVID-19.

Desde finales de febrero, la demanda de gasolina en los Estados Unidos ha disminuido un 44%.

Los expertos agregan que la mayoría de los minoristas de gas no se han cambiado a vender la 'mezcla de verano' porque todavía tienen mucho menos costosa la 'mezcla de invierno' en stock. *By Iris Rodriguez*



Pastor Adalberto Ortiz, primera Iglesia Bautista, en 210 Washington St, Hartford. Viernes Santo llevo a cabo una programación especial en La Diferente Radio.

Coronavirus: Las Protestas Que Politizan La Crisis De Salud

POR MARICARMEN CAJAHUARINGA

Luego que el presidente Donald Trump hiciera una serie de Tweets durante el fin de semana instigando a los estados de Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia a que se "Liberen" de las ordenes de salubridad dadas por sus respectivos gobernadores para mitigar la propagación del COVID-19, grupos ultraconservadores se organizaron con protestas que se han venido desarrollando en otros diferentes estados y el cual han sido apoyados por figuras políticas del lado republicano.

noche, demandando que se reabra la economía inmediatamente. Muchos portaban banderolas de "Trump 2020" y reclamaban que necesitan un corte de pelo.

"Le vamos a enseñar al gobernador Lamont que no puede violar nuestros derechos de la primera enmienda constitucional" gritaban mientras movían sus banderas con el nombre del presidente Trump.

Aunque la población en Connecticut es consiente que el coronavirus no solo ha afectado a la salud de muchos, también ha

Como resultado de estas acciones, los Estados Unidos está en la mira internacional, puesto que es el único país que está realizando protestas en medio de una pandemia, politizando así la crisis mundial en un juego de poder que se burla del bienestar de las personas, y da una mirada fría a los miles de muertes a causa del COVID-19.

Particularmente en Connecticut, el viernes 17 de abril, el gobernador Lamont firmó la orden ejecutiva # 29 donde instó a la población del estado a protegerse con mascarillas cuando salgan al público. La orden fue apoyada por más de la mitad de la población en el estado. Sin embargo, el grupo "Libertarian Party of Connecticut" organizó rápidamente una protesta para el lunes 21 yendo en contra de la nueva ley de protección de salubridad.

La caravana empezó desde los alrededores de la calle Linden Place en Hartford, pasando por el Bushnell Park, el capitolio de Connecticut, y finalizó en las afueras de la casa del Gobernador en West Hartford a las 7 de la

golpeado la economía, llevando a despidos masivos, temor a lo desconocido y un montón de aplicaciones de beneficios por desempleo. Por otro lado, muchas de las personas con estatus migratorio irregular han quedado a la intemperie económica al no calificar a ningún tipo de ayuda federal ni estatal, pues solo dependen del día a día para sustentar a sus familias. Aun así, la población en Connecticut es consiente que lo primordial es la salud y ha habido duros encuentros de opiniones sobre este tema.

Como resultado de estas acciones, los Estados Unidos está en la mira internacional, puesto que es el único país que está realizando protestas en medio de una pandemia, politizando así la crisis mundial en un juego de poder que se burla del bienestar de las personas, y da una mirada fría a los miles de muertes a causa del COVID-19.

Pero los expertos en salud pública y economistas han advertido que romper el aislamiento social y reabrir la economía abruptamente conllevaría no solo a un resurgimiento de las infecciones por COVID-19, sino también a un revés económico que llevaría años en reestablecer. Por eso mismo, en los intentos del gobernador Lamont en reabrir la economía lentamente y con instrucciones de expertos médicos fue una idea acertada en comparación a las demandas de los grupos conservadores que quieren que todo vuelva a la normalidad de buenas a primeras.

Con más de 33 mil muertes en el país, violar las ordenes de aislamiento social pone en peligro no solo la recuperación de miles de personas que están infectadas con este mal, si no también la recuperación económica del país, según los expertos en el tema.

Maricarmen Cajahuaringa es periodista y productora en Boceto Media. Ella puede ser contactada en bocetomediamic@gmail.com

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